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## Mission

RFK Charter School prepares, motivates, and supports students to achieve their college and career goals.

in partnership with their families and the community.

**Governance Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 15, 2024**

**4:30 p.m.**

RFK GC Board President, Mark Walch called a regular GC Meeting on February 15, 2024, at 4:32pm.

**All Board Members:**

Mark Walch, President

April Gallegos, Secretary

Lawrence Barela

**Zoom:**

Angel Garcia, Vice President

Michele Coleman

**Absent (excused):**

Carlos Caballero

Sylvia McCleary

**Quorum:**

Yes

**Staff:**

Robert Baade

Irene Sanchez

Aaron Arellano

Aradeli Ibarra

Cindy O’Niell

Kristy Fernandez

Bernadette Arellano

**Guests:**

Bob Edgar

Kristi Bechdol

Michelle Starnes

Maria Waltemeyer

**RFK Students:**

Shaine Bechdol

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Lawrence Barela made a motion to accept the February 15, 2024, Meeting Agenda. April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous “yes” vote and no one opposing, the Agenda for February 15, 2024, is accepted and carried out.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Lawrence Barela made a motion to approve the January 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes with corrections to Michele Coleman’s name and to rephrase the Executive Director’s Report. April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous “yes” vote and no one opposing, Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2024, are accepted with changes applied and carried out.

**VOTE NEW MEMBER:**

Secretary, April Gallegos made a motion to approve new membership for Bob Edgar. Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a unanimous “yes” in favor vote and no one opposing. The motion is accepted. Bob Edgar will serve on the RFK Charter School Governance Council. Welcome Bob Edgar!

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

HS/MS Math & Reading Assessments:

* Teachers, Kristy Fernandez, and Bernadette Arellano presented the council with a breakdown of “Beginning of Year” and “Middle of Year” Math and Reading Proficiency stats. Then showed Achievements with Percentile Ranks.

Everyone Graduates:

* Cindy O’Niell (RFK Career Success Coach), Michelle Starnes and Maria Waltemeyer (John Hopkins University) made a presentation on "Everyone Graduates". A current project being worked on with students.
* Three highlights of this conversation were, a statement by Maria Waltermeyer, “RFK has made me feel as if I were home.” A statement made by April Gallegos that, “the students seem comfortable and very happy.” Lastly upon conclusion, Michelle Starnes let the group know that John Hopkins University will gather four RFK High School students to represent RFK in Washington DC. All expenses paid.

**MS & HS REPORTS:**

Middle School Principal, Aaron Arellano reports:

Teachers / Academics:

* Teacher observations have been completed and due to licensure levels, some will be observed a second time.
* Mr. Arellano met with staff at the MS for a very productive conversation on how to focus on solutions to tackle attendance and behavior. Developing a plan to assure positive dynamics all around is in the works.
* “Refocus” has started at the MS along with a partnership with Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS). With efforts to give opportunities to support the students instead of what the program has intended in the past, to discipline with an initiative-taking approach to curbing behaviors. Mr. Arellano and staff are having students take part in team building and self-confidence activities. For example, rock climbing, therapy with animals, community service etc. Mr. Arellano states, “We are trying to get our students in this program to really see how successful they can be when they reach their own potential. I see and I am learning that many of our students in “Refocus” have not had very many experiences where they get to be successful. Giving them a taste of their own potential is helping them realize what they can do. The true test will be when they leave refocus.”

MS Partners**:**

* Nature Ninos will not be working with RFK for Spring Semester due to unforeseen circumstances regarding staffing.

Advisory:

* Eighth grade students had a “mock” career fair. With six adult visitors (Robert Baade, Ronnie Renolds, Coach Candelaria, Mr. Arellano, Maria Waltemeyer and Michelle Starnes from JHU). The adults interviewed students. Mr. Arellano states, “The students were phenomenal! They did such an excellent job. In fact, we are connecting two of our eighth graders to the welding program here at the HS from the event!”
* Freckle and High Dosage Tutoring continues during Advisory.

Staff:

* Unfortunately, the Social Studies teacher from North Carolina resigned for personal reasons. Mr. Elias Vasquez will be taking his place. Welcome, Mr. Elias Vasquez!

High School Director, Robert Baade reports**:**

* Teacher observations have also been completed and will meet with individual teachers next week.
* Seniors are working on their “Capstone Projects.”
* The CTE (Career Technical Education) initiative continues its development with CNM.
* “Refocus” is in full swing and like middle school. Mr. Baade states, “We are continuing to reach the students with a positive approach.”

Student Count: 342.5 for average of 80- and 120-day count.

**Finance Committee Report:**

Bob Edgar makes a motion to approve the Finance Report for January 2024. Angel Garcia seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” in favor vote and no one opposing, the Finance Report for January 2024 is accepted and carried out.

**Cash Disbursements for January 2024:**

Angel Garcia makes a motion to approve Cash Disbursements for January 2024 for $744,303.55. April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” in favor vote and no one opposing, Cash Disbursements for $744,303.55 are accepted and carried out.

**BARS:**

Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve Bar #001-051-2324-0021-I, Fund for $59,339.00. Angel Garcia seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” in favor vote and no one opposing. Bar is accepted and carried out.

Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve Bar #001-051-2324-0041-I, Fund for $160,416.00. Angel Garcia seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” in favor vote and no one opposing. Bar is accepted and carried out.

Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve Bar #001-051-2324-0042-I, Fund for $875.00. Angel Garcia seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” in favor vote and no one opposing. Bar is accepted and carried out.

**Equity Council:**

On January 31, 2024, the Equity Council (EC) met and started mapping out the supports that are in place at RFK regarding the “economically disadvantaged” population. Native Americans, and special education students. The next task is trying to involve the staff by sharing the work of the EC. Staff can help categorize the supports, but also see the holes/gaps of where we still need to address concerns.

The next meeting is currently pending, and Mr. Arellano will keep the GC updated as time goes by.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Executive Director, Robert Baade reports:

* Mr. Baade states, “As we approach the fourth quarter of the school year, RFK’s focus needs to be on finishing strong academically.”
* Currently, CNM has partnered with RFK for Career Technical Education (CTE) as a Dual Enrollment Opportunity. Currently, RFK is collaborating Media Production, Early Childhood Education, and Financial Literacy. In addition, there is Chicano/a Studies with UNM and Culinary Arts. Welding has been the most popular with students at RFK.
* The Legislative Session is now over and Mr. Baade is hopeful to a request on behalf of RFK for both operational and capital funding. He mentions that RFK is seeking $200,000 in operational funding for the next two years, and $750,000 in capital for construction of the new CTE facility. With this being an ambitious request, Mr. Baade feels that the requests have been met.
* Lastly, Mr. Baade predicts the need for structural reorganization of several funding strategies and reappropriating grant revenues to cover existing program expenses.

**Housekeeping: training hours & conflict of interest forms:**

All conflict-of-interest forms have been signed and given with Irene Sanchez.

There will be a Spring Budget Workshop near the end of March and Executive Director, Robert Baade, has recommended attendance from the GC members.

**Adjourn**:

Michele Coleman makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. President, Mark Walch adjourns at 6:37pm.

**Next meeting:**

March 21, 2024

**Minutes by:**

*RFK GC Board Secretary, April Gallegos*

*RFK MS Office Manager, Aradeli Ibarra*

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***Governance Council Secretary Signature***

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***Date***